

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 OIC-02 /089 W
-----005019 131027Z /13
R 130705Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 191

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FOR NEA/RA - PALMER FROM MORAN

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: CENTO, EAID
SUBJECT: CENTO ESG(E) MEETING

1. MET MONDAY MORNING JANUARY 9 BRIEFLY WITH POL COUNSELOR TO DISCUSS HUMAN RIGHTS IN GENERAL. AT REQUEST OF EUR/SE DID NOT GO INTO SPECIFICS RE TURKEY. LATER MET WITH AID ANKARA OFFICER POPP AND WITH DOUG MARTIN AT CENTO. GENERAL SUBJECTS DISCUSSED WERE APPOINTMENT OF SYG, CENTO SECRETARIAT REORGANIZATION, STATUS AND ACTIVITIES OF AG ADVISOR, AND MICROWAVE PROJECT. FOLLOWING DISCUSSIONS WITH DSG(E) AND AT HIS REQUEST, MET WITH ACTING SYG MAHMUD TO DISCUSS APPOINTMENT OF NEW SYG AND REORGANIZATION.

2. SYG-MARTIN IS CONCERNED THAT FAILURE TO APPOINT NEW PERMANENT SYG PRIOR TO MINISTERIAL WOULD BE DAMAGING TO CENTO IMAGE AND REQUESTED POINT BE RAISED WITH ACTING SYG MAHMUD. MAHMUD SHARED CONCERNS BUT SAID HE ANTICIPATED TURKS WOULD COME FORWARD WITH NAME PRIOR TO END OF FEBRUARY. IN ADDITION TO IMAGE PROBLEMS, MAHMUD NOTED MATTER GIVEN SOME URGENCY BY UPCOMING NEGOTIATIONS WITH UNIONS WHICH HE FELT A TURK WOULD BE IN A BETTER POSITION TO HANDLE THAN
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HIMSELF, AND BY FACT THAT NEW SYG WILL BE ANOTHER TURK RATHER THAN AN IRANIAN WHICH WOULD HAVE NORMALLY BEEN THE CASE. MAHMUD ASSERTED THAT POSITION OF FORMER SYG BAYULKEN IN NEW GOVERNMENT WOULD LEAD TO EARLY AND SYMPATHETIC CONSIDERATION OF CENTO NEEDS. (SEE 77 ANKARA 9279.) IN RECENT MONTHS EMBASSY HAS EXPRESSED CONCERN INFORMALLY ABOUT THE DELAY IN NAMING A NEW SYG. IN VIEW OF FORMATION OF NEW TURKISH GOVERN-

MENT, IT MAY NOT BE EFFECTIVE AT THIS TIME TO MAKE ADDITIONAL INQUIRIES. IF, HOWEVER, THERE HAS BEEN NO MOVEMENT BY MID-FEBRUARY DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO CONSIDER A FORMAL BUT LOW KEY APPROACH BOTH IN ANKARA AND IN WASHINGTON.

3. REORGANIZATION. MARTIN ATTACHES SOME IMPORTANCE TO MOVING FORWARD WITH REORGANIZATION OF ECONOMIC SIDE AS APPROVED LAST MARCH, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF FACT THAT DENNIS SLOT IS TO BE ABOLISHED. RAISED POINT WITH MAHMUD AND STRESSED US VIEWED MATTER WITH INTEREST. MAHMUD MUCH MORE CONCERNED WITH COMPLETE REORGANIZATION OF SECRETARIAT AND IS RELUCTANT TO APPROACH MATTER ON PIECEMEAL BASIS. HE NOTED DIFFICULTY OF POLITICAL AND EMPLOYMENT PROBLEMS (IE, HOW MANY TURK, PAK AND TO A LESSER EXTENT IRANIAN POSITIONS WOULD BE CUT) AND SAID THAT ECONOMIC BENEFITS WHICH WOULD FOLLOW FROM REORGANIZATION WERE IN MANY RESPECTS ONLY SECONDARY CONCERNS. WE MAY WISH TO CONSIDER RAISING SUBJECT AGAIN AT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE MEETING.

4. AG ADVISOR. DESPITE RATHER SLOW START AND, IN SOME RESPECTS, DISAPPOINTING LIST OF PROJECTS (MOSTLY SEMINARS, LITTLE IMPLEMENTATION) RECOMMENDED BY AG ADVISOR, MUCH PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE. ONE DIFFICULTY HAS BEEN MISPERCEPTION THAT \$500,000 FROM MICROWAVE PROJECT WOULD BE AVAILABLE SOLELY TO PAKISTAN. ADAMS DOES HAVE INTERESTING LIST LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF PROJECTS WHICH MIGHT BE CONSIDERED WHICH HE WILL WRITE UP BEFORE THE ECONOMIC COMMITTEE MEETING FOR CONSIDERATION. MOST ARE PRIMARILY OF BENEFIT TO PAKISTAN SO WOULD BE OF SOME HELP IN ASSUAGING PAK FEELINGS ON THE USE OF THE FUNDS. IN ANY EVENT, WE GOT VERY NICH STATEMENT OF SUPPORT FOR FUNCTION OF AG ADVISOR AND EXPRESSION OF APPRECIATION FOR HIS EFFORTS FROM IRANIAN DELEGATION AND SUPPORTED BY OTHER REGIONALS AND UK. WE MAY BE ABLE TO BUILD ON THAT STATEMENT TO GET CENTO COUNTERPART FOR ADAMS SO THAT AT CONCLUSION OF HIS TOUR EFFORTS WILL NOT HAVE BEEN FOR NAUGHT. WITH RESPECT TO POSSIBLE EXTENSION OF TOUR, IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT AFTER DENNIS LEAVES, US CONTINGENT WILL BE DOWN TO ONLY TWO PEOPLE, ONE TEMPORARY, AND THIS MAY BE VIEWED PARTICULARLY BY REGIONALS AS INADEQUATE EXPRESSION OF US SUPPORT FOR THE ORGANIZATION.

5. MICROWAVE. SUBJECT OF MICROWAVE DID NOT COME UP. PAKS HAD INSERTED INTO AGENDA SOME LANGUAGE WHICH WAS UNACCEPTABLE TO US CONCERNING US COMMITMENT TO \$500,000 MICROWAVE PROJECT IN PAKISTAN" WHICH WE WERE ABLE TO HAVE CHANGED TO "\$500,000 FOR A CENTO PROJECT" WITHOUT OBJECTION OR COMMENT FROM PAKISTANIS. MARTIN IS CONVINCED THE PAKISTANIS

ACCEPT THE FACT THAT THE PROJECT IS COMPLETELY UNREALISTIC
AND THAT IF THE PAKS RAISE IT, IT WILL BE OUT OF PERSONAL
PIQUE, NOT ANY EXPECTATION THAT THE PROJECT COULD BE
APPROVED.

6. SEPTEL ON RESULTS OF ESG(E) MEETING WILL FOLLOW.
SPIERS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, HUMAN RIGHTS, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978ANKARA00293
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780020-0126
Format: TEL
From: ANKARA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780168/aaaacfp.tel
Line Count: 123
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: eb34fce3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3782121
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CENTO ESG(E) MEETING
TAGS: EAID, TU, CENTO
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/eb34fce3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014